

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for transferring electronic information, comprising:
2 receiving a command to transmit a portion of a file of electronic
3 information; and
4 in response to the received command, automatically copying the portion of
5 the file of electronic information to create a copied file of electronic information,
6 transmitting the copied file, and rendering the portion of the file of electronic
7 information unusable.

- 1 2. A method according to Claim 1, comprising:
2 determining whether the portion of the file of electronic information should
3 be automatically copied and rendered unusable.

- 1 3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the determining step is based
2 on an electronic tag associated with the portion of the file of electronic
3 information.

- 1 4. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining that the portion of the file of electronic information has been
3 rendered unusable; and
4 transmitting a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic
5 information has been rendered unusable.

- 1 5. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the file is received from an
2 entity, and
3 wherein the certificate is transmitted to the entity.

1 6. A method according to Claim 4, wherein the certificate is transmitted to
2 an owner of a copyright in the file of electronic information.

1 7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering step comprises
2 erasing the portion of the file of electronic information.

1 8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic information
2 comprises at least one of an image, text, multimedia, a movie, audio, music,
3 software, news, weather, sports news, and data.

1 9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of automatically
2 copying comprises at least one of creating an electronic mail message, copying
3 to electronic storage, copying to magnetic storage, and copying to optical
4 storage.

1 10. A method for providing a file of electronic information, comprising:
2 providing a file of electronic information;
3 receiving a copy of a portion of the file of electronic information; and
4 receiving a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic
5 information has been rendered unusable.

1 11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the file is provided to a
2 consumer in fulfillment of a subscription.

1 12. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is erased in order to render the file unusable.

1 13. A method according to Claim 10, further comprising providing the
2 certificate to an owner of a copyright in the portion of the file of electronic
3 information.

1 14. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the file of information
2 comprises a tag indicating that the portion of the file should be rendered
3 unusable if the portion of the file is copied.

1 15. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the electronic information
2 comprises at least one of an image, text, multimedia, a movie, audio, music,
3 software, news, weather, sports news, and data.

1 16. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to transfer
2 electronic information, the process steps comprising:
3 a step to receive a command to transmit a portion of a file of electronic
4 information; and
5 in response to the received command, steps to automatically copy the
6 portion of the file of electronic information to create a copied file of electronic
7 information, to transmit the copied file, and to render the portion of the file of
8 electronic information unusable.

1 17. A medium according to Claim 16, the process steps comprising:
2 a step to determine whether the portion of the file of electronic information
3 should be automatically copied and rendered unusable.

1 18. A medium according to Claim 17, wherein the determining step is
2 based on an electronic tag associated with the portion of the file of electronic
3 information.

1 19. A medium according to Claim 16, the process steps further
2 comprising:
3 a step to determine that the portion of the file of electronic information has
4 been rendered unusable; and
5 a step to transmit a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of
6 electronic information has been rendered unusable.

1 20. A medium according to Claim 19, wherein the file is received from an
2 entity, and
3 wherein the certificate is transmitted to the entity.

1 21. A medium according to Claim 19, wherein the certificate is transmitted
2 to an owner of a copyright in the portion of the file of electronic information.

1 22. A medium storing processor-executable process steps to provide a file
2 of electronic information, the process steps comprising:
3 a step to provide a file of electronic information;
4 a step to receive a copy of a portion of the file of electronic information;
5 and
6 a step to receive a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of
7 electronic information has been rendered unusable.

1 23. A medium according to Claim 22, wherein the file of information
2 comprises a tag indicating that the portion of the file should be rendered
3 unusable if the portion of the file is copied.

1 24. An apparatus for transferring electronic information, comprising:
2 a processor; and

3 a storage device in communication with said processor and storing
4 instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
5 receive a command to transmit a file of electronic information; and
6 in response to the received command, automatically copy a portion of the
7 file of electronic information to create a copied file of electronic information,
8 transmit the copied file, and render the portion of the file of electronic information
9 unusable.

1 25. An apparatus according to Claim 24, the storage device further
2 storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
3 determine whether the portion of the file of electronic information should
4 be automatically copied and rendered unusable.

1 26. An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the determining step is
2 based on an electronic tag associated with the portion of the file of electronic
3 information.

1 27. An apparatus according to Claim 24, the storage device further
2 storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
3 determine that the portion of the file of electronic information has been
4 rendered unusable; and
5 transmit a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic
6 information has been rendered unusable.

1 28. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the file is received from
2 an entity, and
3 wherein the certificate is transmitted to the entity.

1 29. An apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the certificate is
2 transmitted to an owner of a copyright in the portion of the file of electronic
3 information.

1 30. An apparatus for providing a file of electronic information, comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a storage device in communication with said processor and storing
4 instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to:
5 provide a file of electronic information;
6 receive a copy of a portion of the file of electronic information; and
7 receive a certificate certifying that the portion of the file of electronic
8 information has been rendered unusable.

1 31. An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the file of information
2 comprises a tag indicating that the portion of the file should be rendered
3 unusable if the portion of the file is copied.

1 32. A system for transferring electronic information, comprising:
2 a subscription device comprising:
3 a first processor; and
4 a first storage device in communication with the first processor and
5 storing instructions adapted to be executed by the first processor to:
6 transmit a file of electronic information according to a subscription;
7 and
8 receive a certificate certifying that a portion of the file of electronic
9 information has been rendered unusable; and
10
11 a consumer device comprising:
12 a second processor; and

13 a second storage device in communication with the second
14 processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by the second
15 processor to:

16 receive the file of electronic information;

17 receive a command to transmit a portion of the file of electronic
18 information;

19 determine whether the portion of the file of electronic information
20 should be automatically copied and rendered unusable;

21 automatically copy the portion of the file of electronic information to
22 create a copied file of electronic information;

23 transmit the copied file;

24 render the portion of the file of electronic information unusable; and
25 transmit the certificate to the subscription device.

1 33. A system according to Claim 32, wherein the copied file is transmitted
2 to the subscription device.

1 34. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1 35. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1 36. A medium according to Claim 16, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1 37. A medium according to Claim 22, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1 38. An apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1 39. An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.

1 40. A system according to Claim 32, wherein the portion of the file of
2 electronic information is the entire file of electronic information.